Marie South Williams Memoir

Volume II

Q: Was there anything else that she . . .

A: Oh, put turpentine in a pan if I stuck something in my foot or something and let it soak in that turpentine in the pan, she'd do that. And I used to have stone bruises on the back of my heels. I guess it hit something and bruised or something like that. And she made some kind of salve and sold it. Grandpa did that too. And advertised it in a little magazine that went all over the country or in southern Illinois and people would write to him for this.

Q: You don't know what was in it?

A: Yes. I know some of the things. Tallow was one thing they used and she used. I've seen her make it. She'd melt that tallow and she'd put coal oil and turpentine and linseed oil and, I don't know, just a whole batch of stuff like that. And cook it. And, with that tallow and that was the background that made it like jello, you know, kind of like that.

Q: Yes, hold it together.

A: They sent away and got tin boxes, they was round tin boxes, different sizes. Some of them sold for a quarter and some for a half a dollar. The person that wanted it had to send a stamped envelope and it was round thin boxes that they mailed.

Q: Yes. What all was it supposed to do?

A: Well, just whatever sores come along.

Q: Whatever sores come along, you'd put it on.

A: It healed the itch. Calimo, there was calimo in it. And sometimes if they couldn't get tallow, they used lard, you know, plain lard for a background for it. That held it altogether. And it was solid and you could rub it and rub it on, you know. And then they put an ad in some little magazine that advertised stuff like that.

Q: Did you see much of Ben when you were growing up?

A: When we was going to school together. I mean, I was in grade school some with him, you know. He'd come home with me every day or two to eat lunch. Grandma would always want to know what Ben wanted for his lunch.

And then I knew what I'd get when—she always had pancakes or potatoe soup or something that Ben liked when he'd come, you know. Fried potatoes was my special. Some kind of meat, maybe ham or bacon or something for lunch. I never liked to take my lunch to school. And then later on Ben got so he come home with me on a certain regular day, not just hit and miss. It would be so that Grandma would know what we was going to have for lunch. I liked pancakes. We used to have waffles.

Q: Did he ever stay all night or anything like that?

A: No. He never stayed all night. And I never stayed all night with my mother after I left, never did. And I had an aunt, Mom's sister, that wasn't married when I first went to Grandma's. And I wouldn't go back down there unless she went with me. The aunt was a good sewer. And she was the last one of them to die, Aunt Dollie. And her daughters are the ones that I visit now. She had five daughters and one son.

Q: Yes.

A: And her son was on the way to a basketball game—he was on the team—when he was sixteen years old. And they run into a ditch and the handle of the car punched this boy's lung, punctured it. And he bled to death before they could get him to a doctor. He was the only boy and he was the baby. She was the one that always made my clothes. But then Grandma later on got so—she even made a red velvet suit for me one time.

Q: She taught you to sew.

A: She taught me to sew. I always made Betty Lou's clothes. Now I can't see to sew a seam hardly.

Q: Before I get into the next area that I want to talk to you about I'm going to ask you a couple of questions about things that we missed last week when we were talking. You mentioned your great grandparents' golden wedding celebration.

A: Yes. I don't know what date it was in but it was in the summer. I remember that it was summer.

Q: What kind of a celebration was it?

A: Just a big dinner at their farm. And all of the family that was living, well of course then there was quite a few of them living. Maybe none of them were dead, I don't know.

Q: Well it was pretty unusual for someone to live long enough to have a Golden Wedding.

A: Yes, then.

Q: Then.

A: Yes. Grandma and Grandpa had it on his farm and they had the dinner out in the yard. They put the table out there. And I told you that they had a cake that had marshmallows on top. It wasn't cut up nor it wasn't little ones. It was just marshmallows in icing all over the top. And then some of them in between you know. And some of the family from Carbondale brought it. And I was just dying to pick one of them off. They wouldn't let me. I can remember that. I was little then. My father hadn't died then or my grandpa hadn't either.

Q: We also talked about the Civil War quite a bit last time and you told me about your Uncle Jake and Uncle Moses and being shot and trying to find food. You also mentioned that you knew something of other conditions that affected the soldiers during the Civil War. Do you remember any other conditions that . . .

A: Well I know something that happened to my great grandfather Rude. Grandma said that he—now I didn't hear him tell it but Grandma always told about it. There was vigilantes that went around. And they might take somebody out of their house and kill them if they didn't think they was for the North, you know. And Grandpa—now I don't know why, but he didn't ever go, that grandpa. I would imagine that he was pretty old. He didn't go to the Civil War. He didn't go to the army, my great grandpa. And one night they come, the vigilantes did, and she said they hid the children . . .

Q: Who's she now?

A: Grandma that raised me. She said they put the kids under the beds and around in the closets and things. And Grandpa and Grandma just let the people, had them to come in the house. But they didn't have none of the kids out. They was all hid. And they questioned Grandpa because he didn't go to the Civil War. I guess they thought maybe he wasn't on the North's side but he was.

Q: This was in De Soto?

A: That was out on the farm, that very farm where we had the Golden Wedding. I don't know what all the reasons was that he didn't go. But I just imagine—he must have been—they didn't call him. He never was called.

Q: And this was just a vigilante group that was . . .

A: A vigilante group that went around and . . .

Q: Took the law into their own hands.

A: Yes, they did.

Q: Do you remember any other stories that Uncle Jake and Uncle Moses might have told you about the Civil War?

A: Well, they told about different places that they were, you know, and the dead that they'd seen and their friends that was killed. And some of the De Soto people were killed, you know, in the Civil War. And some of them are still buried down in De Soto cemetery. But the cemetery—they've kept it up well but, you know, that's a long time ago and those stones, they was just as thin, you know how the Civil War stones were. They was about that thick.

Q: Only about three inches thick.

A: But they was easy broke with something, maybe a limb off of a tree or something in the cemetery. And I can remember years and years when I went to see because they always put a flag on them when they decorated, you know. And maybe there would be just a part of the stone there. Well gradually the whole stone would be gone. Well, they've lost track of who all those people are, you know. And they were Civil War. Of course my grandfather is buried there. And Frank's grandfather and, oh, there's lots that had later stones that lived past that thin stone, you know, that they put up, more thicker, you know. And they're still standing. And of course they were of the same age that Uncle Jake and Uncle Moses and all of them were. And I don't know—there's no way of knowing. And they just keep that mowed, all of that part where the Civil War people were buried. There's three parts to the cemetery, that old part, and then there's a newer part where Frank and people like that are buried. And now there's a newer part to it of the people of this age that are being buried. And they keep it up lovely. We pay for it.

I mean, people donate. I always do and other, everybody else. And then the county pays so much. But it's not enough to keep everything nice. But now one of my cousins that runs the restaurant, she's built one of those—well, it's a different thing than I've seen other places. It looks like a granite place for two people under ground, you know. It's kind of like a mausoleum only just for individual people.

Q: Well, you don't remember then any other stories that maybe your grandfather might have told about the Civil War?

A: No, I don't. Now my grandfather in the Company C that he was in, and that's a De Soto company, he was the postmaster. He handled the news that come in. Of course he had a gun and fought if they was accosted you know.

Q: How did he handle the news that came in?

A: Oh, letters then he'd pass around, the ones in his company.

Q: Oh, I see what you're saying.

A: Yes. See, he was in Company C. And there was one hundred men.

Q: Did any of these people go down into the South, other than . . .

A: Yes. Most all of them went down into the South. Most all of them from De Soto that went to Cairo. That's the place that they went to be shipped out.

Q: Do you ever remember them saying anything about their reaction to the southerners?

A: Oh they neighbored with them. They treated a lot of them just like brothers, people that they'd meet. There wasn't much hatred to it the way they talked. Of course maybe they softened up a little bit after they got out of the war but really there wasn't any hatred there. Not like if they'd been Germans or French or Italians or something like that, some foreign person. But they killed them. And the South killed our men. But that last year was a terrible thing in the South because they just invaded. Well, just like from Atlanta to the sea, you've often heard how they treated. Betty Lou found something that was interesting to me. It's not about that of course. But I think it's interesting. It gives . . . that lived here quite a long time ago and

she went to school with Sherry. And she called me from Indianapolis one night not too long ago and asked me what President was not married when he was in the President's place, you know, when he was . . .

Q: Yes.

A: And took me by surprise and the only one I could think of was—can I think of him? When he was first elected, the first term he wasn't married then. But then the last time—see, he skipped a time. Grover Cleveland. And, can you think of anybody else?

End of Side Two, Tape Two

A: Well, it was three or four rooms, like a little hospital.

Q: That was Dr. Spring?

A: Yes, and he was black.

Q: Yes. Dr. Spring, you mentioned, came into . . .

A: He was the doctor for the company because most of the men—oh, there were some white men that worked in the mines. There was three mines there.

Q: All owned by the same company?

A: Yes, Madison Coal Company.

Q: Part of the Madison Coal Company.

A: Yes. They had those blacks, they had to have a doctor because no white man would doctor them, you know, no white man would doctor them.

Q: Would bother with them.

A: And Frank got a thumb mashed one time and he went to Dr. Spring and thought he was just great.

Q: He probably was.

A: And I went to the school board and asked them if I could have him bring in all of his Indian relics. His wife was an Indian, she really was. And he tried to be connected with the Indian race. But he was black.

Q: Did he come into De Soto and treat people?

A: Oh no. They wouldn't let him.

Q: They wouldn't let him do it.

A: They let him come to get drugs at the drugstore and they let him—they didn't make him walk down the middle of the street. Anybody else come to catch the train to go someplace, you know, they made them walk—they wouldn't let them walk on the sidewalk.

Q: The blacks all had to walk down the middle of the street.

A: Middle of the street.

Q: But Dr. Spring could walk down the sidewalk.

A: He could walk on the sidewalk and go in the drugstore. But then he had to just turn around and go back—well at that time he had a car and people commenced that we had a car at that time, secondhand. You know, we didn't have money enough to buy a new one. And I think I told you it was during World War I and a man came from St. Louis and bought up all the stray cars that anybody would sell. Of course you couldn't get a car, you know. And Frank had gone to work at the mines and he had a crew of blacks. He was face boss. He got along fine with them. He didn't have any trouble with them. And that fellow knew I had a car, or he found out when he got—I guess the police or somebody told him. And I sold that car without Frank's approval. (chuckles) And I was so afraid he wasn't going to like it. But he bought it and paid me such a big price for it and he wanted to give me a certified check. I didn't know what a certified check was. I'd never seen one. And I made him go to the bank with me to be sure that it was all right before I'd let him have the car. We've always laughed about that.

Q: In other words you sold the car because it was too big of a price to turn down?

A: Oh I couldn't turn the price down. And Frank was thrilled when he got home.

Q: What kind of a car was it?

A: Ford, Model T.

Q: Model T Ford.

A: Yes. And it was second-hand. And, you know, it wasn't too good but it was such a big price. I don't even remember the price now. But it was such a big price that—three or four times more than we'd ever paid for it or anything.

Q: I wonder why he was giving you such a big price on it.

A: Well, they couldn't buy a new one.

Q: I see. Oh, that was during the war.

A: During the war and they was making guns and ammunition and tanks and things like that.

Q: The same situation occurred in World War II.

A: Yes, I know. But this was in World War I. And Frank went over to Herrin and registered to go into the army, you know. His boss, the superintendent of all of those mines just followed him on over and told them, "You can't take him. I need him. They need the coal." And I was thrilled to death and Frank was so disappointed. I was teaching school then.

Q: Yes. What's a face boss? You said Frank was a face boss.

A: Well, they managed the coal down, how to get the coal out down in the mine.

Q: He was down in the mine all of the time then?

A: Well most of the time. He had to come up and get material and take it down, you know, and, oh, he'd have a pretty big crew you know.

Q: Yes. These blacks that worked at the mines, did the blacks wander into De Soto on their own or did they go to the south and recruit them?

A: No. They went to the south and recruited them. And they didn't like that. The white people didn't. And that's why they killed them. See, they killed a lot of them.

Q: In other words, they were taking the whites' jobs.

A: Yes, they was taking their jobs.

Q: Well then, they paid them less, in other words, the mine . . .

A: They paid the blacks less, yes.

Q: And that's why they did recruit them.

A: Sure. See, the miners had a union. And then finally they was having so much trouble with those blacks. They didn't make the trouble. It was the white people that was making the trouble. I wouldn't have dared to have said that down there way back then.

Q: Of course not.

A: But they was causing so much trouble, the white people were, on account of them being there. They killed—one time in Herrin—they had gone to Chicago and gotten white people to come down. And those white people didn't know what they was getting into. They knew they was going to have a job and they wanted it, you know. It was bad times. They killed twenty-two of them, they made them crawl on their hands and knees to the cemetery and shot all of those twenty-two right in the cemetery.

Q: Was this done by the whites that came down from Chicago?

A: No. It was done by the local people if they was taking their jobs.

Q: Yes.

A: That's terrible. I think along about 1922 that must have been. I'm not sure exactly what date that was but I think about 1922.

Q: You mentioned a fight between white and black girls, the white and black girls' basketball teams.

A: My basketball team.

Q: This was when you were teaching in De Soto?

A: No, when I was teaching in Carterville. I'd got well acquainted with Dr. Spring and he was just a perfect gentleman. And he had showed me all of the different things that he had, oh, very valuable things like headdresses, you know, out of feathers, fine feathers and all kinds of arrowheads and utensils to cook in that the Indians used, you know, just an awful lot of things. And in the first of our book that we went by there was a lesson in September that whole week we talked Indian lore, you know, how the people around had settled in that part of the country and about the Indians and how they had had to move and all of that, you know. So I asked the school board if I could get Dr. Spring to come in and bring all of that. And they said, well, they'd try and see how it went along. Well, it went along fine. He let the kids—he fixed up a table and had all of this on a table and then he'd let them touch it and talk about it and . . .

Q: And the school board would let him come in and show those things to the children?

A: And they let him come in and he came in the whole week. Every day he would come in and bring something different. Well then we talked about—I had a girls basketball team. And I talked to him about it and he said, "Well, we've got one out there at that colored school." They didn't call it a hospital but that's what it was. And his wife was the nurse. She took care of the ones who would have to stay overnight. And the minute we got—one of the other teachers went with me because we had to have two cars. And when we got there—and I had talked to them and we was all going to just be nice and friendly and polite to each other and the minute my girls stepped out of the car those black girls and them—I don't know who started it but they just went after each other and hit and knocked and knocked each other down. And the only thing we could do was just load our girls up back in the car and take them back.

Q: Did you ever, after it was over, think about why it might have happened or . . .

A: No. Just because of the background. They knew that their parents had lost their jobs at one time or another because that's the only thing that could have caused it.

Q: Yes. It's interesting that the school board would let Dr. Spring come in and show his things but would not let him live in the town.

A: Oh no. Oh no. And to this day there's not a black who lives there. And there's the college close and then there's the vocation school there too, out south of town.

Q: Are Colp and Dewmaine still black towns?

A: They're a little bit. I think they must be a little bit white.

Q: Was the school in Colp comparable to the school, for instance, in De Soto as far as the physical plant was concerned?

A: In Carterville?

Q: Yes.

A: I imagine so. I didn't have no way of knowing.

Q: I thought maybe at some point in time you'd seen it.

A: No. No I didn't. Oh, the building—it was a new building. The mine company built the school.

Q: I see.

A: Yes. And then they built one at Colp. And then later on in Colp there was white people. And they hired black teachers then. See, then colored people wasn't trained to teach. They didn't . . .

Q: You also mentioned at one time seeing a wagonload of blacks . . .

A: Well, they killed them and . . .

Q: What brought that on?

A: They was going out to break the strike, you know, take the white man's jobs and as they come in they shot them and loaded them up in a wagon and just hauled them out there to Dewmaine and dumped them out in the road.

Q: The townspeople didn't have any reaction to that? They didn't . . .

A: They was glad they were killed. They had a tough man by the name of Walker that was—and more than likely he helped kill them. I always felt like he did.

Q: Was he the one that was connected with the Ku Klux Klan?

A: No. No, he wasn't hooked up with them at all.

Q: How much did you know about the Klan in that area? Do you have any memory of the Klan operating in that area?

A: Not much because what was there was the two bunches of the brothers and another bunch that was selling whiskey, bootleg. They called it bootleg whiskey. And they would take each other's people that bought whiskey from them, you know. They'd reduce it a little bit and of course it turned into just a vendetta.

Q: What was your school like, Marie, that you started school in? How many grades and . . .

A: The country school that I first taught?

Q: What was the name of the country school? Or, no, the first school that you went to yourself, your own school experience.

A: Oh, my own school. Well, the first two years that I went to school it was a four-room school in De Soto. I went up the stairs. Instead of having the older ones climb the steps they had us. But I think it was

because it was a smaller room and they had so many larger pupils or older pupils downstairs in the big rooms, you know. I went there twice, two years. Then they built that brick red school that you saw.

Q: Yes.

A: I went there and later taught. They had built a part onto the back. In that picture you can see what they built on.

Q: Yes. How many rooms were in the school that you went to originally?

A: Well, there was four first and then we moved to this new building and there's eight in it.

Q: Did each room have a teacher?

A: Yes.

Q: What were the subjects that were taught at that time?

A: Well, orthography was one thing that you don't hear of anymore.

Q: Yes. What is orthography?

A: Well, it's about pronunciation of words by syllables and diagraming. I'd say it's English.

Q: Yes.

A: That's one of the things that was different. Then spelling and arithmetic and reading and I know I never missed a word in three years. And I got a little gold pin that had my teacher's initials on and said, "To M.S." you know. And I've still got it.

Q: Did this school go through the eighth grade?

A: Well, two years of high school.

Q: And that's all you had, two years of high school?

A: Yes, until I went to Carterville.

Q: Yes. What were your school books? Do you remember your books?

A: They were Harpers, Harpers Readers. And a Cavitt, a man by the name of Cavitt printed orthography. But I kind of think maybe it could have been—see there's some Cavitt's here. Betty Lou's principal is a Cavitt now. But he says he don't know anybody. Betty Lou was asking him one time about it. So I don't know.

Q: How many students did you generally have in the school?

A: That I taught?

Q: No, when you were in school.

A: Oh, when I . . .

Q: In your early years.

A: Well in my class I think maybe twenty-five or thirty.

Q: An even mixture of boys and girls?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: What kind of equipment did you have to use in the schools?

A: Nothing much. We had a library. It was just a bookcase. We called it a library. We had a stove in each room, a big brown stove and we'd get out and play in the snow and we'd come in and we'd smell. When we'd get hot we'd sit around the stove.

Q: Sure, sure.

A: And we just had a bath once a week, you know, on Saturday. And you

got clean clothes, a round of clean underwear and socks and everything. That was about what we had.

Q: And then was that to last you the week?

A: Yes. When you got home you took off your school dress. And then you wore lots of aprons, little fancy aprons with ruffles over the shoulders. You've seen those kind.

Q: Yes.

A: And generally a basic dress, a wool dress, you know, maybe just a plain front, you know, and buttoned down the back and no collar or anything on the dress more than likely. Plain sleeves. Then this fancy apron over.

Q: Did you have more than one dress or . . .

A: Oh yes. Yes, I had several dresses. I think I had more dresses made out of some of my aunt's old dresses than--generally you have one aunt that has real nice clothes, you know. And I had an aunt that sewed real well. She'd make me all kinds of dresses out of Aunt Abbie's clothes.

Q: I'm sure you had to wear long stockings and . . .

A: Oh, long black ones. And one time I was ready to go to school and I had a hole in a black long stocking. I just got the dye, shoe polish, and dobbed that leg, over my heel with black shoe polish. And they never knew I had a hole in my socks.

Q: (laughs) What kind of shoes did you have to wear, Marie?

A: I never had any that fit me, not till I got so that I could go to Murphrysboro and buy my own shoes when I commenced to teach school. I had a narrow foot, a real narrow foot.

Q: Were they high topped shoes?

A: Button, buttonshoes. And . . .

Q: Was it button hook?

A: Grandma Walker gave me, out of the store—she always gave me two pair of shoes, one for Christmas and one pair for good. You know, one for school. One time she gave me a pair of—they looked like cowhide. They didn't have no patent leather toes. They just buttoned up, you know. I didn't like them at all. I had to wear them because she gave them to me. And one girl made fun of my shoes at school and the teacher made her apologize to me. I cried.

Q: Oh sure.

A: And I think I was about eight or nine years old. And I never did like that girl afterwards.

Q: That's natural. Children can be very cruel.

A: Well, I've often thought I liked her real well to begin with. And whenever she made fun of my shoes I didn't like her.

Q: Did you have to use a button hook on them?

A: Yes.

Q: Oh boy! What was discipline like in the school at that time?

A: They whipped. The teachers whipped you.

Q: Oh they did?

A: Yes.

Q: What did they use?

A: A paddle.

Q: A regular wooden paddle.

A: Yes.

Q: For what infractions for instance?

A: Well, for me, I got whipped once. I cut Frank and my initials on the seat on the front of the desk. I ought to have been whipped.

Q: Oh. (laughter)

A: But I didn't think—there was several of them. The teacher went around and I took an indelible pencil and wrote, rubbed it in so that he wouldn't see it. And instead I guess he rubbed his hand over it and found out that I had cut it, the back of my seat, I cut my initials, Frank's initials and mine together. And I didn't have no more any idea of ever going with him or anything in my life then.

Q: It was just subconscious.

A: I guess.

Q: I thought he was a smart aleck. I always thought he was just, you know, a big shot. I don't know why I cut his initials because I never went with him until I was nineteen years old.

Q: Something was lingering there.

A: Yes. I know that when he went to visit some of his folks in Nebraska he wrote me a letter back from there. And then we was just kids. But I never had any idea when I would have a date with him. But later after we got married we went back out there to Nebraska to see those people.

Q: But you had never met them before.

A: I had never met them before.

Q: When you were referring to teachers a minute ago you said he.

A: That was the teacher.

Q: That was the teacher. Were there just as many male teachers as women or . . .

A: Yes, yes.

Q: . . . or more?

A: No. They were about even. I think I had maybe four male teachers and I was always afraid of them, the men.

Q: Not afraid of the women but afraid of the men.

A: Afraid of the men.

Q: Yes.

A: And I had one teacher that came from Carbondale. And she had two dresses, a red, a real dark red wool dress and a real pretty blue dress. And to make it look different she would wear a little lace collar or a blue ribbon or something to make the dress look different, you know. And I always thought those two dresses were just the prettiest thing that I ever saw. But it wasn't the dresses that was so pretty. It was the little things that she had around. Or she'd wear a scarf around and have it pinned with a pretty pin on one side.

Q: She used her imagination.

A: She did. Her name was Donson. And I always liked her a lot.

Q: Do you have any memory of the quality of teaching at that time?

A: No.

Q: Or did you ever compare it in your mind?

A: No.

Q: You didn't think much about it.

A: It seemed like I had good teachers. I always felt like I did. I went to school to a girl or a lady by the name of Winters. The first school I ever went to. And when I went back to De Soto to teach school her first child went to school with me in her first grade.

Q: Really?

A: Yes. And we always talked—Miss Gerty always talked to me when we'd meet, you know, about how was her daughter, Dorothy, how she was doing. And now when I go back to De Soto—I always go back on . . . because Frank's down there. I always go back down on Decoration Day. Betty Lou takes me back. And I used to go back on the bus. And then I have drove back. When Frank was living, after he got so he couldn't drive even, I used to drive down there. It's 175 miles.

Q: It's a long trip then.

A: Yes. It was a long trip. And I always meet that girl. She lives in St. Louis. Dorothy comes down to decorate her mother's grave because she's buried there.

Q: And what was her last name?

A: Winters.

Q: You mentioned a Miss Gerty too.

A: Yes. Well, Miss Gerty Winters.

Q: I see.

A: Yes.

Q: How long was your school day and your school year?

A: Well, it was seven months.

Q: Oh seven months?

A: Yes. The first year I taught though was six. That was out in the country. And then they quit two weeks to dig sweet potatoes.

Q: At what time of the year was that?

A: In the fall. They raised sweet potatoes. It was hilly. See, it was just off the Mississippi River.

Q: What other crops did they raise around De Soto? It seems to me, I think, cotton was king down there at one time.

A: No, no cotton.

Q: No cotton?

A: No. No, they didn't raise cotton. They raised wheat and hay and a lot of peanuts.

Q: Peanuts?

A: Yes. And, oh, potatoes. They didn't raise so many sweet potatoes but it was when I first taught school in the country that one year.

Q: Just a certain area.

A: Just a certain area. And they would stop school for two weeks and the kids all dug sweet—well, I think they dug Irish potatoes too but—and they made apple butter because I know even in that two weeks I couldn't get home because I had to go home on the train. And maybe I couldn't get a ride down there. It was quite a few miles to a little stop. And one thing funny about that, I used to get off down there. I'd leave De Soto about 6:30 on the Iron Mountain Train. It run from Hurst to Dupo. Well I guess it was about two hundred miles but not from De Soto. It was, I don't know, maybe forty or fifty miles from De Soto down right close to the Mississippi. Only that place, where I taught, it was up in the hills. Then later when I taught at Gorham, that was right down just a mile off of the river. It was the Brunkhourst Landing and we used to go to showboats there.

Q: Oh really?

A: Yes. And then Grand Tower—there was showboats down there. That was nine miles away. We used to ride down there with a horse and buggy, you know, from school.

Q: What did they have on the showboat?

A: Oh everything. Every kind of a play, Uncle Tom's Cabin and, oh, all—oh, just shows like that, you know. And they'd have a band and you had to walk the gangplank to get onto the boat which was tied up there, you know, at Brunkhourst Landing or at Gorham.

Q: You mentioned one of your teachers having to come from Carbondale to teach.

A: Yes.

Q: How did she travel?

A: Train.

Q: She traveled by train.

A: She'd come in the morning at 7:30 and went back in the evening at eight.

Q: What time did school take up?

A: Nine o'clock.

Q: Then you'd get out when?

A: Four.

Q: Four. What did you normally do after school?

A: Chopped kindling and took the ashes out and fed the chickens and I used to rush home if I wanted to go to skate or something. Grandma was pretty strict with me. And I'd hurry and get all of that done. And then ask her if I could go to skate or if I could go to somebody's house

and play paperdolls or . . .

Q: This was ice skating you're talking about.

A: Yes. Ice skating. But later on they had roller skating in De Soto.

Q: What were your ice skates like? Were they double runner or single?

A: Oh, single. And one time—I'd been having skates and my cousin—see, there's boy skates and girl skates.

Q: Oh really?

A: The girl skates had a piece of leather around here and it come around the front and you hooked it. Well the boy's clamped on, it clamped on the sole. And I didn't have any skates and I had a boy cousin that had a chance to give me a pair of skates and he gave me the clamp-on like he'd wore. And I know I used to—some of them would tell me, "Well, they're just boy's skates. They're no good." And he'd always tell me, "Yes, they're better because you can stand up more straight on them," you know. I don't know that you could. He always did that to help me out.

Q: Right. What did you do in the, you know, like this time of year when it gets so dark in the evening. You'd be home from school and it would be dark and . . .

A: Light the lamps in the house. And try to get all of your work done before it got real dark, you know.

Q: Did you have any games to play or reading or anything like that?

A: Grandma wouldn't let me have even Old Maid. You know, you've seen Old Maid. She didn't believe in cards or anything like that. But we played dominoes.

Q: Oh. I've played dominoes with my grandma.

A: Yes. Well, Grandma and I would play dominoes. And she'd give out my spelling and I'd read to her and . . .

Q: What would you read to her?

A: Just any book that I could get at the library, you know, in school.

Q: Yes. She was not able to read or . . .

A: Yes, she could read but her eyesight. . . . You know, she bought glasses from the peddler that would come along, you know, with the glasses. And they didn't fit too well.

Q: Yes. It was easier for you to read to her than for her to read?

A: Yes. Yes, I read to her.

Q: You don't remember any books that she particularly liked?

A: No. No I don't. And read poems to her and newspaper, you know, we got a weekly newspaper. And if she couldn't see very well I'd thread needles for her. Now somebody has to thread my needles. Betty Lou does or anybody that comes in if I need a certain color of thread, you know.

Q: It's hard to do.

A: Yes. I can't see it. Kevin got me this light that's good.

Q: Those are good lights.

A: Yes.

Q: What were your Christmases like, Marie?

A: Well we got quite a few things. There's quite a—and we had a Christmas dinner and you always hung your sock up, one of them big old long black socks, a clean one, you know. And you'd get an orange and there wasn't any oranges, only on Christmas you know. They didn't—you didn't have fruit. You had bananas on a—we used to have bananas on a long stem. We had a banana knife that we cut them off, you know. There was a hook up there in the front window in the living room that we had that, had some socks hung on, you know. We got them from the wholesale house.

Q: What else did you get in your stocking?

A: Oh, maybe a ring or some candy. And one time Grandma put a piece of coal in my stocking. (laughter) And I was so disappointed. That hurt my feelings terrible. But after I got the piece of coal out there was a ruby ring down underneath of it.

Q: Oh my. It was worth it then.

A: Yes. But at the time . . .

Q: At the time it hurt. That's what you always heard was, you know, if you aren't good you're going to get a lump of coal in your stocking.

A: Yes, well I got a lump of coal. And it was just a joke with her but it wasn't no joke with me.

Q: Yes. How old were you when that happened, Marie?

A: Oh I guess about eight, eight or ten.

Q: Yes. Did you get dolls?

A: Dolls and doll cradle.

Q: What was your doll like?

A: A great big pretty doll. I had two in time. Great big tall leather bodies and china heads with pretty hair. In time I had two of them. And one of them—it was my cousin that gave me the skates, he got out of—his father worked in Grandma's store. I'm sure he took it. And then he took a white paper and pins—it didn't have a dress on, naked you know. And he took a white paper and made a dress like and pinned it on you know and had it hung on the Christmas tree at church. The Lutheran Church always had one. And he said he had it all this time making that dress.

Q: I'm sure he did.

A: Yes. He just covered it. But he had pieces around its arms.

Q: Did your grandma eventually make clothes for it?

A: Oh yes. Yes, and I did too because I always did sew. You know when I got married I thought I had the world by the tail. I didn't take any old clothes with me and we furnished a house. We went over there to Carterville and rented a house and furnished it. Of course I had a piano by that time. And some fellow didn't give us a wedding present but he hauled the piano over in his wagon, fourteen miles, hauled it over. That was the wedding present he gave us. We got everything, curtains and everything.

Q: That was a pretty nice wedding present.

A: I thought it was.

Q: Who gave you that?

A: Well, a fellow that just—it's my piano.

Q: The wedding present was bringing it over for you.

A: Yes. Hauling it over and we thought it was pretty nice.

Q: That's pretty nice.

A: Yes. And Grandma would say, "Now do you want this? This is good. Take this dress." I said, "Oh, no, I'll just leave it. I'm not going to wear all of those old clothes over there. I'm going to buy new ones." And by the time Betty Lou was born I was going back dragging old coats and old things that I had when I was there, making them over into coats for her and dresses and everything. I thought I had the world by the tail. I would never wear those old clothes anymore.

Q: I think we all feel that at that time.

A: Yes. I thought that we'd just go over to town, all of our good clothes.

Q: Yes. What was your Christmas tree like?

A: Oh, the church . . .

Q: At home.

A: Never had but one.

Q: Only one Christmas you had a tree at home?

A: One Christmas tree, one Christmas, and that was the last Christmas I was home. And Grandma had raised them. She had some lots and houses back of us and she rented them. That helped on the living, you know, pretty well.

Q: Well why didn't she have a Christmas tree before then?

A: I don't know.

Q: You never did understand that.

A: No, I didn't understand why. Maybe because it was too much trouble, I don't know.

Q: Well, she might have . . .

A: Or maybe she didn't want her trees cut down. It could be. But then from the time that we lived in Carterville we had a first tree. And I've had a tree ever since. So that must have been—it must have been a bad feeling that I never had a Christmas tree, only that one time. We didn't have any electricity. Nobody had any electricity. We had lamps. And the candles we had was just little candles, wax candles and we had little things that hooked onto them and we hooked them on. And we had to watch every minute.

Q: Yes, I imagine she might have felt it was too dangerous.

A: Well maybe so, I don't know.

Q: Where did you have Christmas dinner?

A: Well, sometimes down at the other Grandma's. One Grandma would invite the other one down. And then we'd have up to Grandma's son, my uncle, our father's brother. And they had quite a few children. But they never had no Christmas tree. And we'd go there a lot of times for Sunday dinner or they'd come to our house.

Q: Did you have turkey and all the trimmings for Christmas?

A: I think mostly we had chicken. Now Grandma Walker would have a turkey. But Grandma Heiple generally just had—there probably wasn't enough of them to have a chicken or just a chicken. But they wouldn't have enough people to eat the turkey.

Q: Grandma who? You said Heiple. Who's that?

A: Well that was a woman that we called Grandma.

Q: I see. Well, how did she spell her last name?

A: H-E-I-P-L-E. She wasn't our real grandma.

Q: Just somebody close to you.

A: Yes. You know then if they was a little old, we called them . . .

End of Side One, Tape Three

Q: What did you do during summer vacations when you were in school, Marie, when you were growing up, in your growing up years? Did you have playmates over or . . .

A: Oh yes. Yes, Grandma picked—she picked my—now anything I tell you—I loved her better than anybody.

Q: Oh sure.

A: But, she was awful strict on me. And I think grandparents that raise children are.

Q: Well she was a woman alone raising you too. She didn't have anybody with which to share the responsibility.

A: She picked my boy friends or tried to, you know, and my girl friends when I was little, growing up you know, the girls that come to play with me and paper dolls and we exchanged paper dolls with each other and we'd go to birthday parties and . . .

Q: What were your birthday parties like?

A: You took a little cup or a quarter or a dime to the birthday party sometimes or a ribbon, you know, for a gift. And you tried to take the nicest one, better than somebody else, you know, and always dressed up, you know, with your best dress on. I was lucky. I had an aunt that sewed and my grandmother, one time she made me a red broadcloth suit. And it was pretty pleated, like an accordian pleated skirt.

Q: Yes.

A: I remember how she laid it on the table and how she sewed those strips together down and pressed them on the ironing board and worked the button holes and I've got the great big white buttons, there's four. Two that buttoned here and then it had buttons over on this other side down for looks, I guess. It looked like a double-breasted. And then there was a snap down here to hold it up in place, you know.

Q: Yes. Was that a middy blouse type of thing?

A: Yes. It was a suit and you wore a China silk blouse with it. It had a string in it, in the bottom.

Q: I see.

A: It was pretty.

Q: Yes.

A: And I was so proud of it. And wore big hats. I tried to find the

picture when I went to Carbondale to school. I had a great big hat on, sitting on the steps with a bunch of girls. And I couldn't find it within another, an old Kodak book, you know. I wanted you to see the little boxes that we had, the lunchboxes. They looked like they was in . . .

Q: Sometimes you did take your lunch to school then?

A: Always.

Q: As a little girl, in grade school, you took your lunch?

A: No. No, in grade school I came home no matter how bad it was or anything.

Q: I see.

A: I come home and eat lunch with Grandma. And my brother would come with me sometimes.

Q: Did you ever have any special celebrations around the Fourth of July or . . .

A: Oh yes. We had a park. We called it a grove and there was a bandstand in it and there was a band, you know, in the town. And we'd always have something then. We always had a program in the church on Christmas and Easter. And, yes, and had ice cream suppers. When strawberries was in, they raised an awful lot of strawberries down there, strawberries and cream and cake.

Q: I see.

A: The churches would sell it, you know. Well the church, generally it was Holy Rollers or something like that, but would put up a big tent and we used to go to that. Then they had the chautauquas. And would be somebody come in and play a xylophone or give lectures. They'd generally be four or five sessions through the year and you bought a season's ticket, you know.

Q: To see whoever spoke at the chautauqua.

A: And I don't remember who spoke or what they spoke about. But I know that they always had something.

Q: Was Halloween ever very special when you were growing up?

A: No, it wasn't. No, it wasn't. They did a lot of meanness.

Q: There were pranks though?

A: Oh yes.

Q: Like what, for instance?

A: Well, Frank got into trouble one time. He helped some boys, boys his age. They built a—they got rails and took Mr. Miller's cow and led the old cow down on the main street and held her and built a fence out of rails around her. And the next morning Mr. Miller got up to milk her, you know, and she wasn't there. He got to looking around and they had this poor old cow down there on the main street with a pen around her. And he sure got whipped for that.

Q: Is that so?

A: You bet. And one time . . .

Q: But they didn't hurt anything?

A: Oh no, they didn't hurt anything. But one time when Frank was with another bunch and they went into Mr. Miller's watermelon patch and stole some watermelons. And Mr. Williams had to pay for part of it and all of the rest of the boys did too.

Q: And what happened to Frank?

A: Oh I'm sure he got whipped. I don't know. See, I wasn't around all the time then. I wasn't having much to do with him.

Q: You said De Soto had two years of high school.

A: Yes.

Q: What were those two years like?

A: Oh, it was all right. Later on I had to take an examination on different things when I started. The ones that had scholarships in the county, they were Lindley Scholarships, free tuition for four years.

Q: What kind of curricula did you have in those two years of high school?

A: Oh, botany and zoology and physics and blackboard drawing and English and, you know, just . . .

Q: Did you have algebra and geometry and things like that?

A: We had that back in . . .

Q: In grade school?

A: Yes.

Q: Your last two years of grade school?

A: Yes.

Q: What was the examination like that you had to take to get into Carbondale?

A: Just on different things that maybe I hadn't had but we studied on them beforehand. They had us to study. We got books and they were secondhand books, you know. They rented them out or—well, no, I think we bought them. It seems like we bought them. But they were secondhand. Then when you got through with that book you took it back and sold it back to them.

Q: This is what we did when I was going to school too.

A: Yes.

Q: So how old were you then when you went into Carbondale?

A: Well, I don't know how old I was.

Q: You must have been pretty young, sixteen?

A: Yes, something like that I imagine.

Q: Were you dating at that time?

A: No. No!

Q: When did a young lady start dating?

A: Oh about eighteen.

Q: Was that about the time you started going out with Frank?

A: Nineteen.

Q: Nineteen.

A: And not much then, I can tell you.

Q: Well how often for instance? I mean . . .

A: Oh maybe on Saturday, Saturday night.

Q: What would you do when you'd go out?

A: Go to somebody's house, somebody that we knew or maybe we'd go on a hayride or go to a party or something like that, pretty tame, whatever. And the church was always having—on Sunday evening they had Endeavor.

Q: What was Endeavor?

A: Church Endeavor. Well in the evening it was the Lutheran Church and they had Brother Ketch. He would have a lesson for you, you know, in the church and we'd sing. Kind of like prayer meeting I think, you might call it that.

Q: Well, when you went to Carbondale did you live at Carbondale or where did you live?

A: No, lived at De Soto, went back and forth on the train.

Q: How much did that cost?

A: A quarter. Twelve and a half cents one—you got a ticket, it just cost a quarter, back and forth. That was the return ticket. It was just five miles.

Q: You mentioned a Lindley Scholarship. How did you manage to get that?

A: Just got the highest grade.

Q: Just got the highest grade but you did study for the exams?

A: Yes.

Q: And were these scholarships open to any student?

A: Any student.

Q: Who was willing to apply for it or take the exam for it?

A: And took the exam and they'd grade them and it was for the whole county. I don't know how many they gave. But I know I got the only one from De Soto.

Q: I see.

A: Yes.

Q: Pretty smart lady.

A: Well I don't know if I just happened to know the right thing maybe. But I know my grandma was awfully proud of me.

Q: I would think she would be.

A: Yes. And I was embarrassed because she'd tell everybody when we went to church. She'd tell everybody that I got a scholarship. And I'd feel kind of embarrassed. I felt like she was bragging on me.

Q: Sure.

A: I didn't want her to.

Q: How many years did you go to Carbondale?

A: Well, three.

Q: A three-year program.

A: Yes. And that gave me a first-grade certificate.

Q: What was your course of study when you were at Carbondale?

A: Oh, everything. Just everything. I had a teacher, one teacher, Miss Buck, she was an old maid. And, you know, back then it wasn't too far back to the Civil War. I mean, oh, it was years and years. But she had taught school all of that time. And she always wore a purple pin and I just loved it. I always did think it was the prettiest thing. And one time—I was afraid of her because she was awful cross and contrary. She was pretty old. She wrote her own book. She taught English. They called it Grammar then. And she'd say, "On page 45, line 6, it says so and so," you know. Well that impressed me an awful lot. And I was afraid to talk to her very much, only just answer her when she called on me. And one time I got up enough courage to ask her where she got that pretty pin. And her boyfriend had been, had gone to the Civil War. And before he left he bought that pin for her and gave it to her. And he never come back, he was killed. And she'd tell it just real sad and I'd be ready to cry by the time . . .

Q: Oh sure.

A: . . . she got through.

Q: Well it was sad.

A: Yes. And then she never did—she never dated again and never married.

Q: What kind of training did she have to teach? Do you have any idea?

A: No. But she wrote her own book. And I guess the school adopted it.

Q: What other classes did you have that you remember particularly?

A: Oh, psychology. I sure didn't like it much. And then Dr. Felts taught me, I'd say, just arithmetic. I don't know what, I don't remember—his son, then, turned out to be a doctor and later on doctored some of my folks.

Q: Really?

A: Yes. He used to put eight, well into the thousands or, on the board, just lots of figures, you know, and have a big long strand. And he started from one side of the room and would walk over there and put the answer down what they were. And we'd always say, "Oh, he knew what he was going to put down." And one time I guess he knew we kind of doubted it, you know, and he asked us to give him the figures. And we'd give him all the figures like he had them all, only different numbers. And he added it up just right. We added it up too later on, you know, and we believed him from then on, didn't doubt his ability.

Q: Was there any social life at Carbondale at that time?

A: Not much, no. See, there was just three buildings.

Q: What were the different buildings?

in Centralia and come down and at every one of the railroad stations they'd stop and pick people up. And when we got on we was five miles from Carbondale and they stopped and put another [car on] to take care of the Carbondale people. And we went down to Cairo. And Teddy Roosevelt stood on a platform and made a talk. And that's the first president I ever saw. Then I saw Coolidge and I saw Taft after I was married. Then when we moved here I saw—let's see now, there was three: Roosevelt, the other Roosevelt.

Q: Franklin.

A: Franklin. And I saw . . . I can't think of all their names now. Today I thought, well I'll write them down. (pause) What was the one that was killed? Now I can't think of his name.

Q: Kennedy.

A: Kennedy. He wasn't president then. He was here to just make talks, you know. And we could have touched him. He talked to us from—he was standing up in a car. He stood up in the back seat of a car and we was down on the square and we saw him. But of course then he was elected. But right then he wasn't. And I've got a hat that—I can't—something is wrong with me. I can't even think of people's names. Eisenhower. I saw him here and he was electioneering.

Q: You've seen quite a few then.

A: Yes.

Q: You mentioned at one time taking trips to St. Louis for permanents.

A: Yes.

Q: And that was while you were at Carbondale.

A: When I lived in De Soto.

Q: When you lived in De Soto. There was no other place to go.

A: No. Nobody. There wasn't a beauty shop.

A: One was the library and one was the main building. They burned that, you know, when the wild time was long in the, was it in the 1930's? No, it was in the 1940's, I guess it was, when they did so much mean things at school, you know.

Q: Yes.

A: I don't know just exactly . . .

Q: What was the other building then?

A: Science Building. And you know, I was so glad to have access to that building. They had a gym down in the basement like. And they had showers for us all. And we never had showers at home.

Q: That must have been pretty unusual in any building at that time.

A: Yes. They had showers and when we played basketball or anything like that we could go in there and take a bath. Boy, I sure was happy on that.

Q: Well, did they have any sports activities that people came to see, like football or basketball or anything like that?

A: No. No, they didn't have no auditorium.

Q: Were there any dormitories at the time? Did anybody live on campus?

A: Oh no, oh no, oh no. That was completely out. But later on after I was married and went back to school they built the Schryock Auditorium and Dr. Schryock was the president of the school then and they named the building for him. And President Taft come there and made a talk. That's another thing, something you might be interested in. I saw Teddy Roosevelt.

Q: Oh you did?

A: I was a little girl. I don't know how old I was, but I was little. And they used to have excursions on the train, you know, on the railroad. And we went to Cairo. There was a big excursion that went to Cairo. And we had to stand up all the way. I think it originated maybe

Q: Did you go by train?

A: No. We drove.

Q: You drove?

A: Yes.

Q: In your Model T.

A: Yes, in the Model T.

Q: How long did it take?

A: It wasn't ours. It was a neighbor's Model T. We didn't have a car, Grandma didn't. She had a horse and buggy.

Q: So your grandmother drove up and you'd go with a neighbor.

A: I went with the neighbor and get my hair—and then later when I went to St. Louis, too, from Carterville we drove in our Model T then.

Q: How long did it take you to take that trip in the Model T, do you remember?

A: Oh, I don't know. It's one hundred miles. I don't remember how long it—did I tell you about one time I drove up there and took a bunch of girls and . . .

Q: Up where?

A: Up to St. Louis. We went to shop and we got to Famous Barr and they had a garage that you could park—if you bought something there you got a ticket, you know, and you didn't have to pay when you'd come back to get your car, you didn't have to pay. And it was to drive up around, you know, like they used to have one down, well I guess they've still got some down there. And I had a blue georgette dress on. And I'd never been up there before, never made that trip all around there. And that night after I got home I took off my blue dress and Frank said, "What in the world has happened to your back?" because it was as blue as

could be. Come to find out, I had got so excited over driving up there I perspired so my blue dress faded on my back.

Q: And that's the time when dyes weren't set yet.

A: Yes. It was a blue georgette dress and just sweat, you know, and there it was, my back was blue.

Q: Yes. Well, when you'd go in for your permanents what all would you do?

A: Well, we'd get a permanent and I had long hair because I taught school. Some of those girls had short hair because they could still bob their hair. And it was rolled on long bars like. About as big around as your finger, you know, and then heat put on. And one time I got burned. And for a long time I didn't have any hair in that place.

Q: Those permanents took a long time, didn't they?

A: Oh yes, took a long time. One time we . . .

Q: Two or three hours, weren't they?

A: Yes.

Q: That's what I thought.

A: Yes, it was a long time. One time we went up there to shop. It wasn't my car. It was Ruth Crane's car. And there was five of us. We always took as many as we could. And a streetcar hit us.

Q: Oh my.

A: And didn't do much. The yellow streetcar left some yellow paint on her car. And for years her husband didn't know where that yellow paint came from. We never did tell it. It was funny.

Q: You also said at one time that you went to the Fox Theater when it first opened.

A: We went there when it first opened and there was all kinds of flowers there to decorate. Well now I went back not long ago . . .

Q: And it looked the same as it did?

A: It looked the same only there wasn't any decoration but it looked the same to me. But I could have never got there if I was driving. I would have never known where it was. But we just stayed a long time afterwards while people—they gave us a little time to drink Cokes and eat sandwiches and things in Fox Theater this time.

Q: You didn't by any chance go to the Louisiana Exposition? It was in 1905 or 1906.

A: No I didn't. In St. Louis?

Q: Yes. The big fair.

A: No. I didn't go.

Q: Did you ever stay all night there?

A: Oh yes. The Statler Hotel, we used to stay there all the time. One time Lizzy Bishop—I think I've got a picture—he was the Congressman from southern Illinois. And Nixon—I saw Nixon very plain and visited with him a lot. We went to Washington to see Runt and Lizzy Bishop. He was in Congress fourteen years. And we went up there to see them and Runt and . . .

Q: Runt and Lizzy Bishop, okay.

A: Yes. That's where I knew Lindbergh, where he used to come back to their house. I'm not sure but I think we got to visit with him, you know.

Q: This was with Nixon, yes.

A: Yes.

Q: When was that?

A: Well, long before he got into trouble.

Q: While he was president though?

A: Yes, while he was president, yes. Runt had, down at his house—he had a lovely home in Carterville and somebody, I guess, has bought it by now. I don't have . . .

Q: He was congressman from that district.

A: Yes, the Twenty-fifth District. And he was postmaster when Lindburgh come and got the mail. And she worked in the post office with him. And that elected him, being postmaster down there.

Q: Yes, knew a lot of people.

A: Yes, knew a lot of people.

Q: From what you've said, you knew Frank for most of your life.

A: I did, from the third grade.

Q: When did you two start dating in earnest.

A: When I was nineteen. They was just lax about—I couldn't make up mind which, later, which fellow I wanted to marry.

Q: Who was the other fellow?

A: Well, he was Frank Chaplain, a railroad man, where I had boarded at a hotel in Gorham because there was just two teachers there at that school. And the other teacher was the principal of the school. And I taught the primary. And she worked for her board there at this hotel. It was just a home affair. And the railroad men changed shifts there and I got acquainted with a fellow by the name of Frank Chaplain. And when he would be tied up there off his trip, you know, I'd maybe go to a showboat with him or we'd drive into Murphysboro or something, you know. And one of the diamonds I've got in one of my rings here he gave me. And I couldn't hardly make up my mind which one I wanted to marry.

Betty Lou gets the biggest kick out of that. "Well, aren't you glad you married Pa?" She always says that. I said, "Yes, I'm sure glad."

Q: How long did it take you to decide all this?

A: Oh, I taught school there, I guess, about three years.

Q: Now this was at . . .

A: Gorham. That was right on the Mississippi, well a mile off of the river.

Q: Now where was Frank working at that time though?

A: Frank was with the AT&T.

Q: Oh?

A: He wasn't working at the mine yet. He was working at AT&T. And . . .

Q: What did he do in his place?

A: He was a lineman. Climbed poles. And right now I think Frank's climbers is out there in the garage.

Q: Yes.

A: Because I know he used to climb trees around here. If he wanted a limb cut off, he'd put on his climbers and climb the tree.

Q: How much schooling did Frank have?

A: He had just what I did there at De Soto. (taping stopped)

Q: We were talking about Frank's schooling.

A: Oh yes. Well then when he got here he had forgot a lot of it. And he was up for a promotion to be one of the examiners here and . . . for Peabody. And he had to know cube root and square root and I don't know what all. But I went through with him. But he had a whole book that he had to know. And he used to get so mad at me. Really it was his fault because he couldn't remember. I'd try to teach him, you know. I did teach him square roots, cube root, and I don't know what else, a whole lot of stuff.

Q: Did he go through Carbondale?

A: No.

Q: He just went through the two years of high school. And then he went to work for AT&T right then?

A: Yes, right then.

Q: What kind of pay did he get working for AT&T?

A: Pretty good pay, but I don't remember what.

Q: You don't remember the exact amount?

A: No, no I don't remember the . . .

Q: Was it an hourly wage or a monthly wage or . . .

A: No, it was an hourly. And lots of times down in Cairo, down in there, the high water got up, you know, and they'd have to run new lines. And maybe it would be all day and all night and maybe another day and night, you know, just continual work. And sometimes, you know, it would make a lot of money. There wasn't no limit on how—like forty hours now, they talk about you just can work forty hours now, nothing like that. You worked as long as they needed you, you know.

Q: Of course, in an emergency they do do that. But they have to compensate you.

A: Yes.

Q: So this is what he was doing when you were married and when he was courting you?

A: Well then in Carterville he got this other job with the mine. And he was over there.

Q: This is where he was face boss.

A: Yes. And that's where we had the house, a four-room house. It was nice and clean. It was old.

Q: Was this one you rented?

A: Yes. We rented it, rented it three years. And then we bought a house.

Q: What did you have to pay in rent, do you remember?

A: I think eight dollars a month. And then we bought that house and it was, I think it was twelve hundred dollars. It was a five-room house and it was real pretty I thought. But . . .

Q: Did it have any plumbing or . . .

A: No.

Q: Nothing like that.

A: No plumbing, but he put water in. And we had electricity. But there wasn't any water and there were no baths. Well, later on we put baths in and put a foundation, a solid foundation. Down in there you know it didn't get so cold. And it would be up on just, maybe stones along, you know.

Q: On each corner of the house?

A: Yes. Like that. We put a big long front porch on it on the front. And we had eleven hundred, or we had six hundred dollars money. And we paid that down on the house. And I thought, oh, we'll never get that other six hundred dollars. It will take us forever to . . . you know,

it just sounded like it was the awfullest price there ever was, you know.

Q: It was.

A: And finally we got it paid.

Q: Did he ever—I'm sure you do know pretty much what he did as face boss. We've talked about it a little before but could you go into more detail about being face boss and being down in the mine and . . .

A: Well, there's motors down there and he knew electricity and he could wire things. And he used to be in charge of all that. They'd go down on a cage, you know, they called it a cage. And I'd used to go down in the mine a lot with him, you know, when they wasn't working. The days they didn't work maybe I'd go out and pick him up or something. They'd generally pooled their rides you know. He'd ride with somebody else and then the next week they'd ride with him. And the same way here when he worked for Peabody. That was a godsend when he got that job because I was teaching school and it was during that hard time when the banks closed and we lost $5,000.

Q: And those were your savings.

A: That's all we had. We didn't have anything. We owned the house. Well I stayed down there and taught school for three years. And he come home every two weeks. And finally I decided, well if I'm going to live with him and be married to him, I'm going to have to come with him.

Q: You don't remember any more about his work down in the mine?

A: Well . . .

Q: The cars were electrically run then?

A: Yes. Yes.

Q: You didn't have mules.

A: Yes, they had mules.

Q: They had mules too?

A: Yes. I don't know how many motors they had, but they had mules. And whenever they struck, you know, lots of times they'd have strikes in the summer, wouldn't work. They'd bring the mules out. But otherwise they left them down there, had barns down in there and fed them down in there.

Q: They actually had stables and things down inside the mine.

A: Yes. And when Betty Lou had the whooping cough Frank took her down in the mine and burned powder.

Q: Burned what?

A: Burned powder. You know, they used powder to shoot the coal down and . . .

Q: You mean like dynamite?

A: Yes. Black powder that they drilled holes and filled it full of holes, black powder, and set it off. And they'd have to be in the other part of the mine then to do that. Well Frank took Betty Lou down there with the whooping cough and did that a time or two, let her breath that smoke and that powder, you know. She never did have another coughing spell.

Q: What was it in the powder that . . .

A: I don't know.

Q: Probably sulphur maybe.

A: It could have been. But whatever it was, she never did cough and whoop anymore.

Q: What made him think that that would . . .

A: The doctor told him.

Q: The doctor told him.

A: Dr. Aird told him.

Q: Dr. who?

A: Aird, A-I-R-D. That's who brought Betty Lou into the world. Two days after Christmas I had company from De Soto, my mother and my brother, and Frank's sister and her husband, we was sitting at the dining table and eating what was left from Christmas, you know. And I kept getting wet. And I didn't know why. I didn't know what was happening. And I didn't tell anybody. And finally I called Frank out in the kitchen and told him. And he said, "Well, I don't know what makes you get wet. Of course he didn't know. So finally he called Mom out there and told Mom and Mom said, "Why, your water's broke. You'd better call the doctor." We called the doctor and he come and made me go to bed. I didn't want to go to bed and leave my company. Well pretty soon Betty Lou was born and we paid him ten dollars.

Q: She was born at the house?

A: Yes. And he never did come back. We never called him back or anything. Neither one of us knew anything about a baby, you know, how to raise it or anything. Well, we got through with it, I don't know how, but we finally got her up so she'd be able to eat and I kept oatmeal on the back of the stove all of the time. It had to be real thin, you know. And finally she got big enough that we could feed her gravy and bread. And I don't know what else we did feed her.

Q: Just whatever came to mind.

A: Whatever come to mind. And . . .

Q: This is a grand picture of the old saloon in De Soto, Illinois.

A: Yes.

Q: And before we leave De Soto, Illinois, you said you knew several of the people in that picture.

A: Yes.

Q: What were their occupations? What were the various occupations?

A: Mostly miners.

Q: Most of those men were miners.

A: Yes. They was miners. Yes, there's a lot of them. Now even though—this burned, it burned.

Q: The old saloon burned.

A: The old saloon burned and they built what they call the Stone Wall there then. And to everybody's surprise the wall stood during the tornado. And it's still there.

Q: That building's still there.

A: Well of course the top went and the inside was cleaned out and everything but those concrete blocks are still there.

Q: That's interesting.

A: And it's right on—and there's a well there and the well's still there.

End of Side Two, Tape Three

Q: Marie, in 1919 the women were given the vote. Do you have any memories of that?

A: Yes, I voted first.

Q: You obviously were happy about it.

A: Yes, very happy.

Q: You were living in Carterville then?

A: Yes, I was living in Carterville at the time.

Q: Was the community happy about it?

A: They seemed to be. And it seemed like they got out, you know. That was about the first thing that we had that was for women, especially for women. Yes, I think people were very happy about the vote.

Q: Yes. Did you ever have any suffragettes come to town?

A: No, no we did. No, we never had no trouble that way. And I think they'd be trouble, you know.

Q: If they had . . .

A: If they were radical you know.

Q: Yes.

A: No. Nobody bothered.

Q: Also in 1919 there was a flu epidemic throughout the country.

A: Yes.

Q: Was Carterville hurt in that . . .

A: Yes. Frank nearly died.

Q: He did?

A: He did. I was teaching school and I had to get a substitute for two weeks and the doctors seemed as though they had gone to other towns too to help, you know, where there would be an epidemic. And we didn't have anybody hardly left in our town. And we tried to hire a nurse for Frank and we couldn't get one. So the Masons took turns sitting up with him all night, you know.

Q: Yes.

A: Because if I took care of him through the day, why then, I couldn't stay up all night. And I had a cousin of mine teach school for me the two weeks that he was so bad. And we finally got a doctor, Dr. Huff. And people just died like flies with it. People that you wouldn't have thought could have ever taken anything that serious, you know, and Frank was a stout young man then. And he just come down like a ton of bricks and was just terribly sick and running high temperatures, you know, and had chills and fever all the time. It was terrible.

Q: You had to find your own substitute at school?

A: Yes. Well everybody was sick.

Q: Yes.

A: So I sent over to De Soto and got a cousin of mine that wasn't teaching that year. And she came over and stayed right in my house. The doctor give us a lot of, I guess they were antibiotics, I don't know what he gave us, but we took medicine all along, you know, to keep us from having it. So we didn't take it at all.

Q: Was 1919 the year you were married?

A: No. We were married in 1916.

Q: In 1916.

A: Yes.

Q: Tell me about your wedding.

A: Well, we had announcements, just announcements, written you know or printed, not written. And we had them addressed to just our friends and then never mailed them until—we was married on Easter Sunday. And then we sent them out the next day. But we left that night on the train to go to Carterville. But we went to the Lutheran minister's home and was married there. And there was a cousin of Frank's was his best man. And my best girl friend was with us too. And had a ring, just one ring,

paid five dollars for it.

Q: Oh my!

A: And the wedding certificate, it cost five dollars and after we got that done and we paid as much as we thought we could on the furniture that we would furnish the little house, the four-room house in Carterville, I think we paid about one hundred dollars on it, we had ninety-five dollars left. And I thought, oh, we'll never get all that furniture paid. And we got carpet and linoleum, you know. And we got a cookstove. And we didn't get a heating stove right then because it was in the spring, you know, when we was married. And Brother and Sister Kitch was at the wedding, you know. And we stood up in their parlor at six o'clock in the evening and was married there. And then we walked back to my grandmother's house, the four of us, and my mother had come up. And she'd baked a cake and Grandma had cooked a nice dinner. And we had dinner there and then at eight o'clock we went to the train. And a whole bunch of our friends was there with rice.

Q: Oh my.

A: Yes, and they threw rice. And wished us happiness. But before that my Sunday School class that I had taught there in the Lutheran Church had a shower. And that shower was something that they hadn't ever had before. They didn't know very much about it. But you'd have been surprised at the things that I got.

Q: What kind of things did you get, did they give you?

A: They gave me scarfs and blankets and rugs and their parents would make them, you know.

Q: Oh sure.

A: And then they invited a lot of the church people. And they had it up at my grandmother's house. And then one boy, and I've still got the dish, he went to the store and bought a glass dish that's got grapes imbedded, you know, all around in the glass. And it cost twenty-five cents.

Q: Oh my.

A: And they called this boy Snakey. That was his nickname. And now to

this day my grandkids always says, "Let's be sure and have the beets and eggs," (when I cook beets and eggs together and make the eggs red, you know) . . .

Q: Yes, pickled eggs.

A: Yes, pickled eggs. They always say, "Let's have it in Snakey's dish." And then when we get through with it I wash it and put it back in the china cabinet because I don't want for it to ever get broke.

Q: Oh no. You're going to have to show it to me sometime.

A: I will. Well, it's just one of the things in my family that . . .

Q: It's very special.

A: Yes. And the boy and girl that stood up with us, Frank's cousin, Earl Harris and Ruth Frieze were the people. And I'd always sit with Ruth at school. You know, then we had double seats in school.

Q: Oh sure.

A: And you had a seatmate. And I'd always sit with Ruth. And she taught school then later when I had taught school. And she married a lawyer in Murphysboro and lived just a year and died with TB [tuberculosis].

Q: Oh my.

A: She was twenty-five years old.

Q: That's sad.

A: Yes. A beautiful girl.

Q: Did you go on a honeymoon, Marie?

A: Oh no. We went right over there to Carterville on that train and went down to our house. The next morning Frank got up and went to work

just like he was supposed to. And I commenced to keep house. And you know, my grandmother had never let me cook. She was afraid I might spill a little flour or something on her kitchen cabinets or on her floor. She never did let me cook anything. I had to learn to cook. Frank always told people he taught me how to cook. I don't think he did but he always said that he helped teach me, you know. And I had known some of the girls there in Carterville that had gone to school with me over at Carbondale. So I just fell right into their sewing clubs and . . .

Q: Oh, they had sewing clubs that you could join?

A: Yes. Sewing clubs and little clubs here and there and I belonged to the women's club and the things that young married people were supposed to—and some of the girls hadn't married yet. And we all run around together. And we had a good time. And went places. The minister said today to me, he said, "Marie, are you a Cub fan?" I said, "No, I'm not a Cub fan. I'm a St. Louis Cards fan." And he said, "Oh, that's the one thing that makes you not perfect because you're not a Cubs fan." And he said, "Why did you ever . . . " I said, "Because I lived in southern Illinois." And we went up to see Grover Cleveland Alexander pitch. And we went to see the Dizzy Dean bunch, you know, the brothers, him and all the rest of the noted people that played on the team we'd drive up there to see. And the World Series when they won them, you know. And I was a long, long ways from Chicago.

Q: Oh sure.

A: At that time I'd never been to Chicago. But St. Louis we'd just go up there and trade, you know, go up there and buy our clothes and our hats. I always loved hats and people wore beautiful hats then.

Q: Oh, they were pretty, they were very pretty.

A: I had a friend that made hats. She had a store. She sold dresses and hats. And if you didn't like what was sent in, why, you'd tell her what you wanted and she'd make you a hat.

Q: Hatmaking was quite a business then.

A: Yes it was. And they made it out of beautiful material. I used to have Betty Lou's hats made when she was a little girl. I could buy her a coat or I could make her a coat. You know, I told you about when I left home, I left all my clothes and my dolls and all that stuff and I thought I'd never go back. And I went back often and would get an old

coat and cut it up and make her a coat out of it. And then have a hat made and I used to pay six dollars for a little velvet hat that would be sheared all around and gold lace all around the front. And I thought, "Six dollars, that's the awfullest price I ever heard of." But we wanted her to have the best and she laughs now about. I still tell her about her buggy that we bought her, the first buggy. And it was lined with blue velvet all inside and it was wicker. And we paid sixty dollars for it. That was nearly Frank's whole salary because when we got married he just made eighty-five dollars a month. That was nearly his whole salary.

Q: For the month.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you buy it and pay so much a week or . . .

A: His grandmother, his stepgrandmother worked at a big store there in Carterville. And that gave us credit, you know. And we just paid so much. And that's what we did with the furniture. And our credit was good. And the man's children went to school with me that run the store. And I saw some of them not many years ago, about three years ago. One of his boys was at the fifty years when they graduated. They had a reunion. And since that time he has passed away. Mr. Heckel was the one that run the store and gave us credit. And . . .

Q: Marie, you taught school in De Soto and Gorham and Herrin as well as Carterville?

A: Yes.

Q: Now, what did you teach in those three towns?

A: In Gorham I taught first and second grade. In the country—and that was in the district—I taught all grades. And I had three people in my eighth grade that went through Murphysboro in the spring that year and took the examination and passed the eighth grade. And we thought that was pretty big for me in the first time I taught, you know. And that's where I taught the lady to read and write that I boarded with.

Q: Oh I didn't realize that.

A: For my board.

Q: Yes.

A: And . . .

Q: Now this was in Gorham?

A: It was out in the country.

Q: I see.

A: Yes. Up on a high hill about five miles from Gorham. But it was in the same district.

Q: I see.

A: And the board told me that if I would stay there—they'd had so many teachers that would get up there and get discouraged and leave. And they told me, if I would stay they'd give me a school in Gorham in the town the next year if I'd stay all year in that little school. Well, I stayed.

Q: How did you get in and out? How did you get out there?

A: Well, if I come on the train I got off at a little place called Grimsby. It was just a little flag place where they flagged the train. And I'd get on at De Soto and ride twenty miles down into that bottom of the Mississippi River, you know. But before I'd get off down there at this Grimsby place and every Monday morning that I went home the people that worked on the railroad, they rode a handcar and they'd wait for me there and let me ride the handcar with them, three miles back into the country on the railroad and they'd let me off at this man's farm where I boarded. But it was back about a mile up in the country.

Q: That was quite a trip to get to school.

A: It was terrible.

Q: How early did you have to start in the morning?

A: Six o'clock in the morning.

Q: And then what time would you get home at night?

A: Well, I never got home at night. I got six weeks mostly there where I was boarding.

Q: I see.

A: But then whenever I wanted to go home and I wanted to go home—I'd like to go home every week but I couldn't, you know. The weather wouldn't allow.

Q: Permit it, right.

A: And they'd have to take me—they had some children that drove the buggy, you know, or I might ride a horse on the back of one of them and they'd take me down to this little station three miles away from their house and let me wait there. There was just a little three-sided place for you to stand.

Q: Yes, to keep out of the weather.

A: Yes, keep out of the weather. Two ends and a back, you know, and then there was a bench along there. And I'd wait there no matter what kind of weather it was. No wonder I've got lung trouble.

Q: Maybe so.

A: Yes.

Q: What was the school like? What kind of a physical plant was it?

A: The little school up on the hill for all grades?

Q: Yes.

A: Three windows on each side. A little front porch, a water bucket on a bench and a dipper. And a blackboard up in front and a teacher's desk

and the children would sit close to the stove in the winter, you know. You just nearly burned up on one side and the other side was cold, you know, because of just heat. Warm, a big brown stove, you know. I had a little boy that did the stove tending, you know.

Q: Yes.

A: I think I paid him about fifty cents a week or something like that.

Q: You had to pay him yourself.

A: I had to pay him myself, yes.

Q: What kind of salary did you make, Marie?

A: Thirty-five dollars a month. And I got to keep it all because I didn't have to pay any board to that lady.

Q: Yes. There were no benefits at that time from the school district.

A: No. They closed two weeks. I got paid for that. They closed two weeks in the fall for the children to dig sweet potatoes.

Q: What was the school like at Herrin?

A: A big nice brick school. Nice—and I rode a streetcar. There was a streetcar that ran from Carterville to Energy to Herrin. And I would take that of a morning and ride over to Herrin. And they stopped the streetcar right at the school.

Q: You went to De Soto and then you went to Gorham and then you came into Gorham to teach school.

A: Yes, that second year.

Q: Did they raise your salary then?

A: Oh yes. I got forty dollars. And I thought that was—and then I bought a piano.

Q: Oh my. How much did you have to pay for that?

A: Two hundred and twenty dollars.

Q: My heavens.

A: I've still got it.

Q: That's the one in your . . .

A: My living room. And the kids want me to get rid of it, you know. "Oh, Grandma, get you a Spinet piano," because I bought Sherry one and I bought, Frank and I did, bought Sherry one and bought Betty Lou one. They thought I ought to have a Spinet. I said, "I don't want a Spinet." I love my old piano.

Q: You like your old piano, sure, I don't blame you. I like it too.

A: Yes.

Q: In these various schools were your classes all about the same size or . . .

A: About the same size. In Herrin I taught the fourth grade and the pupils there—their fathers was miners.

Q: Yes.

A: And they were mostly Italians.

Q: Yes.

A: And there was a store there close. And they'd go in there and buy a half a loaf of bread, like French bread. And it would be cut in the middle. And I don't know if it was buttered or not, but then there would be a slice of meat in there. It would be the whole loaf of bread, I mean the thickness of it, about half.

Q: Yes.

A: I don't remember what they paid for it. But that's what they all ate every day.

Q: Every day.

A: Yes. Those children did.

Q: What were the nationalities in the other schools?

A: Well, not in Herrin because that was all mostly foreign children because their parents had come in from Italy, you know, and different places. Miners—seemed like that was what they were there. And then there are still a lot of those people there. In Carterville they were just people that lived there for years, you know, generally. And a lot of them were miners but just ordinary people. And I loved Carterville.

Q: Before we get to Carterville, were the students that came to Gorham, were those children from families that farmed?

A: Yes, they were farmers, most all of them were farmers.

Q: They were all farmers.

A: And there might have been a few railroad people.

Q: Gorham was a railroad town, wasn't it?

A: It was a railroad town, yes. Maybe their fathers was a switchman or something, you know, that pertained to the railroad.

Q: Yes.

A: And the depot man in . . . there was different things from that. And of course the trains changed people, conductors and brakemen and all, engineers and so on, they swapped trains, you know, when they got there. They'd work there—maybe the bunch that came in on the Southern road, they'd already worked their eight hours, you know, and they'd lay over there. And then whenever the train was made up the next day, then

they'd get back on the train to go wherever they was supposed to go.

Q: What year did you start teaching in Carterville?

A: Well, I guess after I taught in Herrin that first year. That was 1918.

Q: In 1918. What subjects did you teach there?

A: In Carterville I taught—I didn't start—they didn't give me a school right that first year. They didn't know me very well, you know. And I'd just moved there. I taught in Herrin one year but I didn't take it back because I thought it was too hard to make that trip, you know, on that—so I didn't take it. And my neighbor was on the school board. And he was the banker. And he told me, "Well, don't worry. I'll see that you get a school." Well it wasn't but three weeks that I didn't teach at first and there was one man that was teaching departmental in the seventh and eighth grade. And he quit to take another job in some other town. And right away this man that was the banker, he come over one morning and he said, "Monday we want you to come and teach the history in the seventh grade." He brought me a book and . . .

Q: You hadn't taught history before then.

A: No. . . . and a course of study. Oh, I'd taught it in grade school, you know.

Q: In younger grades.

A: Yes. Well, no, in the eighth grade.

Q: In the eighth grade too?

A: Yes, because they graduated. See, I had three that graduated that first year.

Q: That's right.

A: And then I commenced to teach. And I finished, I guess, fifteen years.

Q: Of teaching history?

A: History, yes.

Q: What was your approach to teaching history, Marie? How did you do it? What methods did you use?

A: I had to go by the course of study, the Illinois State Course of Study and it was all mapped out for every month in the year, not in the year because we taught eight months. Then later on we taught, I think, eight and a half. Yes, you taught just what the course of study told you to teach.

Q: In other words, you didn't bring anything into it yourself or . . .

A: Well, yes, anything that anybody knew or how they taught them to do things or anything, I would bring it in. One time I had my history class make maps out of salt and flour. I don't know if you've ever seen that. They took it to the county fair and everybody took everything from their grades. And my class, just that one class, won $125 at the county fair. Well, $125 was like a half a million dollars then, you know.

Q: Was this a class prize?

A: Yes. It was for the class. They didn't get it. The school got it, but it was for their maps that was made. They got first.

Q: Yes.

A: Most all of them got a first on certain kinds that they made, you know. Some colored them. Some put mountains in. And Frank come home one evening and he saw a great big man nearly on our back porch with his rear end turned toward the door when Frank started to walk in. And he was down making a map, oh, about half as big as this bed on a great big cardboard. And he wondered, what in the world? Frank thought it was a man and it was a boy in the eighth grade. And he was making this salt and flour map, and had it on—and Frank always laughed about him the way he'd make a mistake and he'd say, "Well, God dang." He wouldn't damn, he said, "Well, God dang." And Frank, he'd sit back and laugh at him. He'd make a mistake and then he'd have to go over it again, you know. He colored it green where it needed to be green, the tops of the mountains where there wouldn't be any trees, he'd put brown and have it all—he did wonderful.

Q: You've told me at that time also that children were placed in the rooms according to their ability.

A: I didn't like that.

Q: And you said you didn't like that.

A: I don't yet. I think it's wrong. The highest, the second's all right. We had five, divided into five groups, five rooms because there were so many in the seventh and eighth grades, it wouldn't hold them all. And by the time you got those all divided up, three—the three highest I'd say was all right. The next two and that last one was terrible.

Q: Yes. How many were in the last one?

A: Well, maybe there would be twenty-five.

Q: Yes.

A: And honestly, some of them would just cry because they had to go in that room. Of course it made them work harder to get into another higher, but if they didn't have the ability they couldn't do it. There was still a bunch that would stay all year in that lowest bunch. That didn't help them any. They'd have learned from the smarter ones if they'd have been in one of the higher classes.

Q: Some of it would have brushed off you feel.

A: Some of it would have brushed off.

Q: Yes. And it made them feel different to be . . .

A: And if they could have learned from somebody else maybe. See, the teacher don't always put it across to certain people in the right way maybe. And I think sometimes in somebody they'd liked real well, they would have learned or tried to imitate and maybe studied harder. I never did like that system.

Q: Were these children that had remedial problems? Were they from lower economic groups or was it . . .

A: It didn't always have to be that way.

Q: It didn't always have to be that way.

A: No. No, it don't really have to be that way. It was just—and somebody would once in a while come and—the parents feel so bad that their child had to be in that low grade, you know. And they didn't see why they couldn't do better and would I give them special help? I always tried to. And I know one boy—his father said to me—he came to school one time and said, "That's just too much reading for him. He's had some kind of a stroke or something." They thought he had. But I imagine it was some kind of a child—they used to have to bring him in a little wagon, you know, pull him. He couldn't walk.

Q: Yes.

A: Well, that was kind of a handicap to him. Of course then he had to be lifted out of that little wagon. The principal would do that then and bring him in and set him in his class. Well, his mentality wasn't as good as it would have been if he'd have been just normal, you know. If he'd have been up and walking around, he wouldn't have—and I always tried to give him extra work.

Q: Did you have any other children with special physical problems?

A: I had a girl one time that had epilepsy. And I always drove my car to school. I always took her home. We could get her in the car and I'd take her home and her mother could get her out of the car and maybe she'd come out of it, you know, by that time, by the time I'd get her home. She wouldn't know whatever happened. There was no way to do anything for her or . . .

Q: How did the other children treat her?

A: Treated her fine and felt sorry for her. And you don't always find that.

Q: No you don't and especially at that—epilepsy has just come into its own in recent years. People have just been . . .

A: She was a pretty girl.

Q: So often epileptics were thought of as mad.

A: Yes. She was a beautiful girl. And I guess later on maybe—I'm not sure, they may have found something that may have helped her, you know. Sometimes there is something. Frank had a boy cousin, his mother's sister's boy, and a wonderful musician but he had those spells. And they at one time wrote through a little magazine—you know, you used to get lots of little magazines—and had this medicine sent. And you know, that kept them off of him for years, that medicine did. Of course I don't know what it was or anything but it sure . . .

Q: Well, it works on some and not on others.

A: Yes. But his sister would take music lessons and she'd try to stumble through it, you know, and he'd hear her play it and he'd go in after she got up and just run through it perfect, you know. It used to make her so mad. She wanted to fight him because he did so well, you know.

Q: Yes, right. Did you ever have any special history program for the school or do anything like that?

A: Yes we did.

Q: What were those like?

A: They were good. We'd have open house a lot of times, have all their maps and have them recite you know.

Q: Yes. Recite what, for instance?

A: Well, maybe somebody's birthday like Lincoln's or George Washington's or . . . we'd just pick out anybody that was along in history, you know, and study all we could and find out everything. Everybody would hunt in magazines. They had a nice library there in Carterville.

Q: Oh they did?

A: Yes.

Q: Was this in the school or was it a separate public library?

A: No. It was a public library. And they still do have.

Q: Were all the children able to participate, even those that were, could not learn as well?

A: Yes, yes, everybody did their share. They'd have every room do this part. And it was nice and sometimes we'd have, oh, cookies and something to drink or coffee or something like that, and serve it to the parents that would come. See, we taught in a great big old brick building. And the principal's office was on the second floor. And then there was a third floor. And it was all that area that was the seventh and eighth grade. At that time the town was growing big, you know, and it was a nice place. So I don't know.

Q: What kind of discipline?

A: Well, it was good. Nobody gave trouble like they do now. You know, if anybody needed to be whipped, the principal whipped them, you know. And they whipped them every once in a while.

Q: What did you do in the room when you had a problem? How did you handle it?

A: I took care of it myself. I didn't . . .

Q: Just talked to the student or . . .

A: Yes, that's right. Yes, I think you have to do your own controlling to be efficient. Nobody ever resisted me in any way. I never had a bit of trouble.

Q: You always had cooperation from parents.

A: Parents—sometimes not. Sometimes they'd come and say that their student didn't do this or it wasn't them, like they do now. But not ugly. Generally they got whipped at home if they did anything wrong in school.

Q: Did the school have Christmas parties?

A: Yes, we always had Christmas parties. Sometimes we'd have a Thanksgiving—see, we was connected with the high school. The high school was there and we took care of the first two groups in the high school. I took care of the history and of course the English and so on was taught by other teachers there and they had a cafeteria in the school then. And later on we had . . .

Q: That's interesting that they had a cafeteria.

A: Yes, they did. Not a free cafeteria.

Q: No, but back in . . .

A: That you bought. And then we had outdoor toilets first. But later on after they built another new building they built a whole building that was toilets and showers and things like that.

Q: Yes.

A: And everybody went to the toilet, you know, in this building. It was just a whole row. And then they tore those old outside toilets down, you know, because that was awful, you know, what we had then.

Q: Oh sure, I'm sure.

A: Then there wasn't no way—there wasn't any water. But they got water there and they had a water system of their own, the town did. It was about 6,000 people at that time, but now it's about 15,000.

Q: Yes. That's interesting.

A: It was a happy life. I loved it. And I hated to come up here the worst that ever was.

Q: Yes.

A: It made me sick. I hated to leave my home. We owned a house. And I loved it but there was no work for Frank. I could have taught there but

I told you I was paid a long time with script. And they discounted it, the stores did.

Q: Did the children—I'm sure they bought their books.

A: Yes, they bought their books.

Q: Did they have any means of buying books for those who couldn't afford them?

A: The school board took care of that. Yes, they . . .

Q: How did they decide who could . . .

A: Well, I don't know how they decided but if you went to them and told them, there was one on the school board who looked after—there was six people on the school board. You'd go to one of them. They never had any women on the school board. It was always men.

Q: What were some of the rules you had to follow that the school board required as a teacher?

A: Be at school at eight o'clock. And not leave till four, no matter if, unless the principal said that you could leave. And of course I told you about having Dr. Spring to come in and talk.

Q: Yes.

A: And then we had other doctors and nurses and people like that that had interesting things to tell to the children, you know. We had them come in and we had a girls' basketball team. We had a boys' basketball team. And then they played tennis in the spring.

Q: Oh they did?

A: Yes.

Q: Were the tennis courts right at the school?

A: Yes. Our school was in a grove, a town grove. And it was about, I guess, two acres. And the schools was built there and still are. And the South Side School burned and they never rebuilt it. I guess—they had that South Side School for the smaller children, from one to four. And then—they never bused them then. Everybody got their children to school themselves. So . . .

Q: Like when I was growing up.

A: Yes. Nobody took their children to school. And there was no colored, you know, there. They didn't allow colored people in.

Q: Did you have any people that were terribly poor, that really, where you had to worry about whether they had shoes.

A: Yes. We bought—the teachers—this big Willie Jeffrey that Frank saw on my back porch that time, he was one of the best basketball players. And they couldn't no more buy him anything, you know.

End of Side One, Tape Four

A: . . . for his age.

Q: Yes.

A: But, you know, kind of a fat boy. And he looked like a man nearly. Of course he would, you know, to be that far along and as poor as he was and didn't have too much upstairs, you know.

Q: Yes.

A: But a good basketball player. We were going to go to Marian to the . . . and we won it.

Q: But you said the teachers bought Wilie some . . .

A: We bought Willie shoes and a coat and a shirt. He had a pair of pants. He couldn't have gone to the basketball team. He'd come to school nearly naked, you know, wear his dad's clothes and, you know, they wouldn't look like anything.

Q: Yes.

A: One time we had a boy and he was from a very poor family. But I wanted to tell you about Willie first.

Q: Okay.

A: We didn't think he ever would amount to anything. He lives on a great big farm down close to Marissa in southern Illinois. He owns it and he's raised a nice family they tell me and married a nice person and made it fine. Can you imagine that?

Q: Maybe he . . .

A: From such an upbringing you would have never thought it. But one time we was going to have a George Washington play, you know.

Q: Yes. Now this was the play you put on with the children?

A: Yes. Yes, we was going to have George Washington and Martha, you know, the whole bit. And the boy that we thought would make the best George—I told him one day, I said, "Now you'll have to get your mother to let you wear a pair of silk hose. Then they were silk. And he come back to me the next day and he said, "My mother said to tell you she didn't have anything but cotton." And I said, "Well, I'll get you a pair." He was a tall boy, taller than me.

Q: Yes.

A: And I had a neighbor who was kind of a tall, slim girl. And she said, well she'd loan him a pair. And we got him dressed up like George Washington. I made him a suit out of some kind of cloth that we went together and bought, you know. It was kind of a brown—it looked like—the way I remember it, it looked like linen. But it wasn't. It was lining. You know, they used to have cotton lining in coats.

Q: Sure.

A: Well, that's what it looked like, made just down below the knee you know. And sewed and sewed and made. One time I made twenty-five

dresses out of paper. They bought a petticoat, the girls did.

Q: What was that for?

A: Well that was a spring breakfast that we had.

Q: I see.

A: And my girls was the ones that had to have the paper dresses. And, my lands, it took me weeks to make. . . . I just tacked them on a petticoat, you know.

Q: What were the paper dresses supposed to represent?

A: Just spring.

Q: Just spring.

A: Yes. And they had a little dance, you know.

Q: I see.

A: We had a music teacher that helped with things like that too.

Q: So you had music in the school. And did you teach art in the school?

A: Yes. We had art and music. And all of the regular subjects then. See, we had some men that taught and they weren't very good though on anything like that. The women had to do all the extra things, you know.

Q: Yes.

A: And our principal just died last year.

Q: Oh.

A: I kept in touch with him.

Q: What was his name?

A: His name was Owens, his last name.

Q: Well, you were in Carterville during the roaring twenties [1920's] and prohibition.

A: Yes.

Q: And there's was lots of excitement in Williamson County.

A: Yes. Short dresses and long waists was way down here, you know. Then short skirts. I just wonder—I thought I looked fine but I guess I didn't. But I guess I looked like everybody else.

Q: Well, sure.

A: I thought I was well dressed.

Q: I'm sure you were. I'm sure you were. Well it was also at this time that Charles Birger was living in Williamson County.

A: Yes.

Q: And he and the Shelton boys were friends.

A: They were to begin with. They were friends and dealt with each other. But they got jealous of each other. And then is when the trouble started. Those Shelton boys lived right back of us . . .

Q: Oh they did?

A: . . . in Carterville. They used to live—we faced the west and they faced the east on the street that was that way. We faced Bryan Street.

Q: Well, you had an interesting set of neighbors, the Shelton boys on one side and the banker on the other side.

A: Yes, quite a different setup. But we all mixed.

Q: You knew the Sheltons.

A: Oh yes. Mrs. Shelton was a big woman, a great big woman. Everybody always said she was the mean woman in the family, that she promoted it. But I don't know if she did or not. Those boys—Mr. Shelton worked in the mine.

Q: Oh they did?

A: Yes. And that was out of Colp and out there, you know. And the girls went to school with me. I think I told you about seeing Lulu's picture . . .

Q: No.

A: Well, several years ago Bernie was killed, murdered. They was all murdered, you know.

Q: Yes.

A: And they buried him in Peoria.

Q: Was that Bernie Shelton?

A: Yes. And they made a picture and had it in the paper, all around the casket, you know, as they was putting him down in. And I could pick her out. She looked like she did when she was a little girl, Lulu.

Q: Yes. When did they start . . .

A: Well, along they got into bootlegging, you know.

Q: Yes.

A: And of course that—see, there wasn't any good liquor, you know,

legal liquor. And they got into bootlegging and well . . .

Q: When did Charlie Birger come into the picture?

A: Well, Charlie Birger kept taking some of the Shelton's people away from him that he was selling to. And that's the trouble. There's where the trouble started. I've given you a book, I think, on . . .

Q: Yes, but I was interested in hearing your thoughts on it.

A: Well, they got so that they just killed people all the time everywhere.

Q: Yes. And there was no control.

A: There was no control.

Q: I read in one of the articles that this S. Glenn Young, who was the . . .

A: Yes, he was the . . .

Q: He was the Klan leader and formed a vigilante group.

A: Yes. Yes, I didn't know him. I never knew him. You know, we stayed pretty close to home at night. It was pretty dangerous to get out. Not that I was afraid of the Sheltons. I don't think they would have done anything to us, but you never knew at that time.

Q: Yes.

A: I know at one time a bunch of us went to St. Louis. And down in the bottoms going home right out of, well it was out of East St. Louis, not very far down there, and we broke down. And we was awful afraid. And we all said we didn't think the Sheltons would do anything. But if the Birgers was there, if they'd happen to meet, we'd be in the crossfire. And we stopped at an eating place and called our husbands—there was two of them, Frank and another fellow. And we'd been just shopping, a bunch of girls, you know. And they met us. We stayed there at that eating place and they drove in another car and come and met us and fixed the car. And then we got home all right. But it was pretty dangerous.